

**C L A I M A M E N D M E N T S**

The following is a complete listing of all claims ever presented in the present application, including the text of all pending claims and withdrawn claims.

1. **(ORIGINAL)** A machine-readable medium that stores a pricing database accessible by a computer, the pricing database organized according to a data structure which defines:

a plurality of representations of food products; and  
a plurality of price ranges, each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of food products and each defining a maximum price and a minimum price for which the corresponding food product may be sold in exchange for a round-up amount associated with a purchase.

2. **(ORIGINAL)** A machine-readable medium that stores a pricing database accessible by computer, the pricing database organized according to a data structure which defines:

a plurality of age categories corresponding to a food product; and

a plurality of price ranges, each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of age categories and defining a maximum price and a minimum price for which the corresponding food product may be sold in exchange for a round-up amount associated with a purchase when an age of the food product corresponds to the one of the plurality of age categories.

3. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food product;

setting a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration;

and

storing an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

4. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 3, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price.

5. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;

identifying a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and

offering the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 5, wherein the step of identifying a food product comprises:

determining a first product, the first product corresponding to a first price range wherein the round-up amount is within the first price range;

determining a second product, the second product corresponding to a second price range wherein the round-up amount is within the second price range;  
and

selecting one of the first and the second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount.

7. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 6, wherein the step of selecting comprises:

selecting one of the first and the second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount in a random fashion.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 6, wherein the step of selecting comprises:

receiving at least one characteristic of the purchase; and  
selecting one of the first and second product to offer in exchange for the round-up amount based on the at least one characteristic.

9. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The method of ~~claim 8~~, wherein the step of receiving at least one characteristic of the purchase comprises:

receiving an indication of at least one of (i) a number of customers associated with the purchase, (ii) at least one product included in the purchase, (iii) an age of a customer associated with the purchase, (iv) a weight of a customer associated with the purchase, and (v) a gender of a customer associated with the purchase.

10. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:

determining a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product;  
setting a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;  
generating a purchase price of a purchase;  
generating a rounded price;  
calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price; and  
causing the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

11. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one characteristic comprises at least one of (i) a temperature of the food product, (ii) a staleness of the food product, and (iii) a sogginess of the food product.

12. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;  
causing the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;  
setting a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and  
causing the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

13. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;  
determining a food product corresponding to the food component;  
setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

14. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
causing the food component to be made into the food product and provided  
in exchange for the round-up amount if the offer is accepted.

15. **(ORIGINAL)** A method, comprising:  
determining a time until expiration of at least one food component of a food  
product;  
determining a time until expiration of the food product based on the time  
until expiration of the at least one food component;  
setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a  
minimum price and a maximum price; and  
causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the  
round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up  
amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

16. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor in communication with the storage device, the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
- the processor operative with the program to:
  - determine a time until expiration of a food product;
  - set a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration; and
  - store an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

17. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

generate a purchase price of a purchase;

generate a rounded price;

calculate a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;

identify a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and

offer the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

18. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the

at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product:

set a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the

price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;

generate a purchase price of a purchase;

generate a rounded price;

calculate a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference

between the purchase price and the rounded price; and

cause the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up

amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

19. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor in communication with the storage device,

the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a time until expiration of a food component;

cause the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;

set a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and

cause the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

20. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus, comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor in communication with the storage device,
- the storage device storing a program for controlling the processor; and
- the processor operative with the program to:
  - determine a time until expiration of a food component;
  - determine a food product corresponding to the food component;
  - set a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and
  - cause an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

21. (**ORIGINAL**) A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a time until expiration of a food product;

setting a price range of the food product based on the time until expiration;

and

storing an indication that the food product may be offered in exchange for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

22. **(ORIGINAL)** A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price;

identifying a food product and a corresponding price range of the food product, wherein the round-up amount is within the price range; and

offering the food product in exchange for the round-up amount.

23. **(ORIGINAL)** A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a status of at least one characteristic of a food product, the at least one characteristic being indicative of the age of the food product;

setting a price range of the food product based on the status, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price;

generating a purchase price of a purchase;

generating a rounded price;

calculating a round-up amount, the round amount being a difference between the purchase price and the rounded price; and

causing the food product to be offered in exchange for the round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range.

24. **(ORIGINAL)** A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

- determining a time until expiration of a food component;
- causing the food component to be made into a food product if the time until expiration is less than a predetermined threshold;
- setting a minimum price for the food product based on the time until expiration of the food component; and
- causing the food product to be offered in exchange for a round-up amount, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.

25. **(ORIGINAL)** A medium encoded with a program for implementing a method, said program for directing a device to perform the steps of:

determining a time until expiration of a food component;

determining a food product corresponding to the food component;

setting a price range for the food product, wherein the price range defines a minimum price and a maximum price; and

causing an offer to exchange the food product for a round-up amount if the round-up amount is within the price range to be output, wherein the round-up amount is a difference between a purchase price and a rounded price of a purchase.